

CLAIMS:

1. An external fixator for a bone fracture in or adjacent a long bone, the external fixator comprising:
 - a main body adapted for external fixation to the long bone, the main body extending along a longitudinal axis generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the long bone, the longitudinal axis of the long bone and the longitudinal axis of the main body together defining a reference plane;
 - an outrigger connected to the main body for extending over the bone fracture and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the main body;
 - a first bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger in a first bone fastener support movement direction, the outrigger being formed such that the first bone fastener support movement direction is sloped at an angle relative to the reference plane.
2. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the first bone fastener support is slidably attached to the outrigger.
3. The external fixator of claim 2, wherein the outrigger defines a track for the first bone fastener support, and the first bone fastener support slidably rides in the track.
4. The external fixator of claim 3, wherein the track has a first opening for introduction and removal of the first bone fastener support, the first opening being located proximally on the outrigger toward the main body.

5. The external fixator of claim 4, wherein the track has a second opening for introduction and removal of a bone fastener support, the second opening being located distally on the outrigger away from the main body.
6. The external fixator of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger in a second bone fastener support movement direction, the second bone fastener support movement direction being at a wrap around angle relative to the first bone fastener support movement direction.
7. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the first bone fastener support movement direction, is at an angle of from 98° to 115° relative to the longitudinal axis of the main body.
8. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the main body and the outrigger are formed of plastic.
9. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the main body is adapted for external fixation to a radius, with the outrigger connected to the main body for extending over the wrist joint between the radius and a metacarpal for treatment of a Colles' fracture.
10. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the outrigger is secureable to the main body at a first position wherein the outrigger extends over the long bone to the right of the main body and a second position wherein the outrigger extends over the long bone to the left of the main body.

11. The external fixator of claim 1, wherein the outrigger comprises a first section for use in holding the bone fastener support such that the bone fastener support extends distally when the outrigger extends to the right of the main body and a second section for use in holding the bone fastener support such that the bone fastener support extends distally when the outrigger extends to the left of the main body.

12. The external fixator of claim 11, wherein the first section and the second section each comprise a track, the tracks joining at a common end point extended away from the main body.

13. An external fixator for a bone fracture in or adjacent a long bone, the external fixator comprising:

- a main body adapted for external fixation to the long bone, the main body extending along a longitudinal axis generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the long bone, the longitudinal axis of the long bone and the longitudinal axis of the main body together defining a reference plane;

- an outrigger connected to the main body for extending over the fracture and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the main body;

- a first bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger in a first bone fastener support movement direction which is generally linear; and

- a second bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger in a second bone fastener support movement direction which is generally linear, the second bone fastener support movement direction being at a wrap around angle relative to the first bone fastener support movement direction.

14. The external fixator of claim 13, wherein the wrap around angle is greater than 15° .

15. The external fixator of claim 13, wherein the outrigger defines a first track portion for the first bone fastener support and a second track portion for the second bone fastener support, and wherein the first track portion and the second track portion are separated at the wrap around angle in the outrigger by a strengthening web.

16. An external fixator for a bone fracture immediately in or adjacent a long bone adjacent a joint between a long bone and a second bone, the external fixator comprising:

- a main body adapted for external fixation to the long bone, the main body extending along a longitudinal axis generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the long bone, the longitudinal axis of the long bone and the longitudinal axis of the main body together defining a reference plane;

- an outrigger connected to the main body for extending over the fracture and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the main body;

- a first bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement in a first bone fastener support movement direction,

wherein the outrigger is pivotably attached to the main body such that pivotal adjustment of the outrigger changes an angle of the first bone fastener support movement direction relative to the reference plane.

17. The external fixator of claim 16, wherein the outrigger is pivotably attached to the main body such that the first bone fastener support movement direction can be selected at positive and negative angles relative to the reference plane.

18. The external fixator of claim 16, wherein the outrigger is pivotably attached to the main body such that the first bone fastener support movement direction can be selected at a greater range of positive angles than negative angles.

19. An external fixator for a bone fracture in or adjacent a long bone, the external fixator comprising:

- a main body adapted for external fixation to the long bone, the main body extending along a longitudinal axis generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the long bone, the longitudinal axis of the long bone and the longitudinal axis of the main body together defining a reference plane;

- an outrigger connected to the main body for extending over the fracture and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the main body, the outrigger having a proximal end near the main body and a distal end away from the main body;

- a first bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger, the first bone fastener support being received at the proximal end of the outrigger; and

- a second bone fastener support adjustably attachable to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger, the second bone fastener support being received at the distal end of the outrigger.

20. An outrigger for use with a main body of an external fixator for a bone fracture in or adjacent a long bone, the main body having a longitudinal axis

running generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the long bone, the outrigger being attachable to the main body extending generally transverse to the longitudinal axis of the main body, the outrigger comprising:

- a first slide portion for adjustable attachment of a first bone fastener support to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger; and
- a second slide portion for adjustable attachment of a second bone fastener support to the outrigger for adjustable movement along the outrigger, wherein the second slide portion is angled relative to the first slide portion allowing adjustable changes to elevation of at least one of the bone fastener supports relative to the longitudinal axis.